We claim:

1.   A method of reporting search results including the steps of:
retrieving search results from one or more search engines;
filtering the retrieved search results according to one or more criteria;
5   extracting locational information from the filtered search results;
storing the locational information in one or more output hierarchies; and
displaying the search results within the one or more output hierarchies.

2.   The method of claim 1 further including the step of transforming a
search request to a form suitable for each of said one or more search
10   engines.

3.   The method of claim 1 further including the step of transforming
said search results from said one or more search engines to a
standardised form.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the criteria for filtering includes
15   removing duplicates.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of extracting locational
information includes the step of analyzing a URL of the search result.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of extracting locational
information includes the step of analyzing a file system location of the
20   search result.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of extracting locational
information includes the step of analyzing a taxonomy of the search result.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more output hierarchies
are constructed from the locational information.

25   9.   The method of claim 1 further including the steps of retrieving
further search results from one or more search engines and merging the
search results to the one or more output hierarchies.

10. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of manipulating said output hierarchies to collapse, expand, move or flag said search results

11. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of adding notes and discussions to search results and/or hierarchies.

12. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of sorting and prioritising the search results within an output hierarchy or between output hierarchies.

13. The method of claim 1 further including the step of storing search results and hierarchies.

14. A method of compiling and presenting search results including the steps of:

defining search parameters for submission to one or more search engines;

passing the search parameters to a search engine submitter;

said search engine submitter transforming the search parameters to search terms for each of said one or more search engines;

receiving results from said one or more search engines;

said search engine submitter transforming said results into standardised results having a standardised format;

passing the standardised results to a location analyser;

said location analyser filtering the standardised results according to criteria to produce filtered results;

passing the filtered results to a hierarchical data modeller;

said hierarchical data modeller extracting locational information from said filtered results;

compiling said locational information in an output hierarchy; and

displaying the filtered results within the output hierarchy.

15. A search result reporting engine comprising:

a location analyser means that filters search results received from one or more search engines according to one or more criteria; and

an hierarchical data modeller means that extracts locational information from the filtered search results and compiles said search results into output hierarchies based upon the locational information.

16. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a search engine submitter means adapted to accept a search query from a user and to submit the search query to one or more search engines.

17. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a Report Renderer means that displays the search results within the output hierarchies.

18. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising means for manipulating said hierarchies to collapse, expand, move or flag said search results.

19. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising means for adding notes and discussions to search results and/or hierarchies.

20. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a display means that sorts and prioritises the search results within a display hierarchy or between display hierarchies.

21. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a search engine submitter means adapted to accept a search query from a user and to submit the search query to one or more search engines.

22. The search result reporting engine of claim 21 wherein search engine submitter reformats the search query for each search engine.

23. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a storage means for storage of search results and hierarchies.

24. The search result reporting engine of claim 23 wherein the storage means provide the capacity to merge new results with stored results.

25. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 wherein the hierarchical data modeller comprises means for extracting location and meta information from a search engine result set; means for compiling the

location and meta information into a N-way hierarchical storage location; and means for retrieving and displaying like information from the storage location.

26. An hierarchical data modeller comprising:

5   means for extracting location and meta information from a search engine result set;

means for compiling the location and meta information into a N-way hierarchical storage location; and

means for retrieving like information from the storage location.

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